

REMARKS

This Reply is in response to the Office Action mailed November 1, 2002.

Applicant hereby cancels claims 7-10 pursuant to its provisional election, and withdraws its traversal of the restriction based upon the Examiner's new ground for restriction, as provided in the Office Action of November 1.

Pursuant to paragraph 2 of the Office Action and to MPEP §608.02(g), a proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are provided with this Reply. Specifically, FIGS. 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A, and 7A are now designated by the legend "Prior Art."

Additionally, while Applicant considers the drawings objection of paragraph 3 relating to cross-hatching to be vague in that the Examiner did not specify the nature of the error, the proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are believed to comply in this respect as well.

In paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Clarkson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,082,397). Anticipation under 35 USC §102(b) requires the presence in a single prior art disclosure of each and every element of a claimed invention. *Kegel Company, Inc. v. AMF Bowling, Inc.*, 44 USPQ.2d 1123 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Because Clarkson et al. fails to disclose, teach or suggest the presence of each and every element of amended claims 1-6, the claims should be allowable.

Claim 1 recites, in part, "a generally cylindrical dielectric barrel portion having a generally squared shoulder disposed around a portion of said cylindrical barrel portion."

Clarkson et al. fails to show this limitation. As seen best in FIGS. 2 and 6 of Clarkson et al., the portion identified by the Examiner as the squared shoulder is not disposed around a portion of a cylindrical barrel portion. While it is arguable that the rectangular portion of the socket body 11 is not disposed around a barrel portion at all (i.e., the rectangular portion is positioned behind, not around, the cylindrical portion), even if one were to hypothetically consider the barrel to extend backward into the portion identified by the Examiner as the squared shoulder, the squared shoulder would extend completely around the cylindrical barrel portion rather than around merely a portion of it. A similar argument applies to claim 4.

Claim 1 additionally recites, "such that a cross section of said barrel portion taken at said carrier strip includes a generally round portion not adjacent said carrier strip and a generally squared portion adjacent said carrier strip." Corollary to the above considerations, Clarkson et al. fails to disclose this limitation of the claim. Specifically, as probably seen best in FIGS. 2 and 6 of Clarkson et al., a cross section taken through the Clarkson et al. structure arguably akin to a carrier strip would not include a round portion at all. Rather, the cross section would only include a rectangular portion. By being disposed about only a portion of the barrel portion, the instant invention requires less dielectric material than the design of Clarkson et al.

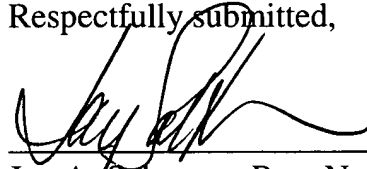
Claim 1 additionally recites, "said squared shoulder facilitating cutting said terminal completely from said carrier strip." This is a third element of claim 1 that is not shown or suggested by Clarkson et al. In Clarkson it is not a squared shoulder that

facilitates cutting, but rather a grooved flange (21, 23) with a break-away line 22 that facilitates separating the lamp-receiving sockets from one another. In fact, the need for the scored groove in Clarkson et al. teaches away from the claimed invention wherein a squared shoulder facilitates cutting and completely removing a terminal from a carrier strip. Again, a similar argument applies to claim 4. Thus, because Clarkson et al. fails to show a number of separate limitations of claim 1 and 4, it cannot anticipate these claims.

In addition to depending from claims that should be allowable, claims 3 and 5 should be allowable because each recites the presence of a dielectric intermediate portion disposed between the electrically conductive contact portion and the barrel portion. As explained in the specification (p. 4, lines 23-30 and p. 5, lines 17-32), this permits the intermediate portion to fit over and be crimpable over the exposed end 18 of the insulated wire 16. Claims 2 and 6 depend from claims 1 and 4, respectively, and should therefore also be allowable.

Applicant thus submits that amended claims 1-6 are allowable and favorable consideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Marked Up Version of the Amended Claims

1. (Amended) A terminal disposed on a carrier strip, said terminal comprising:
[a] an electrically conductive contact portion; and
a generally [round] cylindrical dielectric barrel portion [attached to said carrier strip, said barrel portion] having a generally squared shoulder disposed around a portion of said cylindrical barrel portion [where said barrel portion meets said carrier strip] such that a cross section of said barrel portion taken at said carrier strip includes a generally round portion not adjacent said carrier strip and a generally squared portion adjacent said carrier strip, said squared shoulder facilitating cutting said terminal completely from said carrier strip.

3. (Amended) A terminal in accordance with claim 1 wherein said terminal further comprises [an] a dielectric intermediate portion disposed between said contact portion and said barrel portion.

4. (Amended) A carrier strip integrally connecting and including a plurality of terminals, each of said plurality of terminals comprising a contact portion and a generally [round] cylindrical dielectric barrel portion attached to said carrier strip, said barrel portion having a generally squared shoulder disposed around a portion of said cylindrical barrel portion [where said barrel portion meets said carrier strip], said squared shoulder facilitating the complete removal of said terminals from said carrier strip.

5. (Amended) A carrier strip in accordance with claim 4 wherein each of said plurality of terminals further comprises [an] a dielectric intermediate portion disposed between said contact portion and said barrel portion.

6. (Amended) A carrier strip in accordance with claim 4 wherein said plurality of terminals are integrally connected with links of said carrier strip and said terminals are arranged on said carrier strip such that there are first and last end terminals with a plurality of intermediate terminals disposed between said end terminals on said carrier strip, wherein each of said end terminals includes a barrel portion having only a single generally squared shoulder where said barrel portion meets one of said links of said carrier strip and each of said intermediate terminals includes a barrel portion having a pair of generally squared shoulders generally diametrically opposed on said barrel portion such that each shoulder meets one of said links of said carrier strip.